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Approved For Release 2007/03/06 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000100130094-1

16 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Arnold Brustin, on the staff of
Senator Gaylord Nelson (D. , Wis.)**

1. In response to his request of yesterday for a briefing of Senator Gaylord Nelson (D. , Wis.) on the Russian and Chinese Communist threats, I called Mr. Arnold Brustin, of the Senator's staff, and advised him that, as he well knew, this was a complicated and sensitive matter. I added it is one on which we have responded in depth to our CIA Subcommittees, who by our ground rules are kept informed on these matters. I went on to say that, while we wanted to be helpful to Senator Nelson, it would be virtually impossible for us to respond to individual requests from every member of the Congress for briefings on this subject and for this reason we suggested that Senator Nelson discuss this matter with our Subcommittee Chairmen, Senators Richard B. Russell (D. , Ga.) and John C. Stennis (D. , Miss.).
2. Mr. Brustin's immediate reaction was one of irritation and expressed surprise. He said he had the impression from our conversation yesterday that there was no problem regarding a briefing of the Senator and that the only issue which remained had to do with his (Brustin) being present at the briefing. He added that on this basis he had informed Senator Nelson the briefing was being arranged and the only problem was one of timing. I told Brustin I was quite certain I had made no commitment with regard to either of the Senator or of himself but had merely indicated that I would look into the matter.
3. Mr. Brustin said if we don't have sufficient resources to provide this briefing and were refusing to brief the Senator he would like me to put this in writing. I said if he would put a request in writing we would give him a response in writing. At this juncture he laughed and said he did not want to do that. I said that surely neither of us wanted to get into a writing campaign on the subject. I added that if the Senator wished either I or someone from our office would be happy to discuss the matter with him. Mr. Brustin

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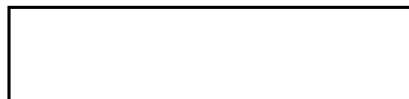
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responded that he did not feel this was necessary adding that if it was necessary to explain anything to the Senator he could and would do so. He asked if I would raise the question again since the Senator had expressed a real interest in a briefing. I told him that this had been the basis on which I had originally raised the question and there was no need to raise the question again for the answer would be the same. Mr. Brustin said he was miffed at this development and that he would discuss it with the Senator. He said he was sure the Senator's reply would be "interesting."

4. A short time later, Mr. Brustin called me back saying that he had discussed our conversation with Senator Nelson, who had indicated to him that he has talked with Senator Stennis and that he does not want a substitute briefing from the Senator; what he wants is a briefing from the Agency. I asked Brustin if he meant by this that Senator Nelson had discussed the subject of this briefing with Senator Stennis and Brustin said he had not. Nevertheless, he said the Senator wished to renew his request for an Agency briefing, feeling that he had every right to do so and had asked if there was some policy against this he would like to know about it in writing.

5. I told him this was not a matter of policy and attempted to reassure Brustin that this was not a personal matter as far as Senator Nelson was concerned but merely was a reflection of the fact that we could not possibly respond to individual requests for briefings from every member of the Congress. Our conversation ended on a rather friendly note with Brustin commenting that we were both in the middle between our bosses but asked if I would pass on to the Director the Senator's reaction. I told him that I would and I agreed to be back in touch with him, probably sometime tomorrow.

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Deputy Legislative Counsel

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